

October 31, 2006
Special Meeting-Water/Sewer

Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman
Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Eric Williams-Interim County Manager
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board
James Graham-County Attorney

Chairman Wooten called the special meeting to order to discuss water and sewer issues. Attorney Graham had the invocation. The Board had the pledge to the flag.

***Chairman Wooten made the following motion to direct Mr. Williams to have Arcadis to proceed immediately with acquiring bids on the West Yadkin to Lydall or Blue Rhino waterline (funding for this project will come from county cash, grants, loans or other sources), have Arcadis to proceed with acquiring bids on the sewer line from 77/421 to Hoots Road area (funding will come from county cash, grants, loans or other sources). The time line for bid opening will be 11-28-06, these bids to be awarded on 12-1-06 time of day to be determined. Advertising, pre-bid meeting, bid opening, bid awarding and other items. The time line for this total process will be 10-26-06 to 12-01-06. Chairman Wooten stated he understood that the process to obtain a loan could be lengthy and the above time line may not be achieved. Commissioner Casstevens seconded.**

Chairman Wooten requested a closed session for economic development.

Commissioner Phillips questioned the specifics of going in closed session.

Attorney Graham reviewed the specifics of the General Statue regarding location or expansion of industries or other businesses.

***Commissioner Casstevens made the motion to go in closed session per G.S. 143.-318.11(a)(4), location or expansion of industries or other businesses. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0**

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to come out of closed session Chairman Wooten seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Chairman Wooten stated there was a proposal presented to run waterlines to 77/421 and it was cancelled. Then in August 2005 it was suggested to employ a company out of Mt. Airy, but the Board went in another direction. In 2005, Commissioner Phillips suggested the county work on obtaining loans and grants for the 77/421 interchange. Commissioner Phillip suggested applying for the State Revolving Loan for additional waterlines. In October 2005 a motion was made to proceed with engineering and construction to the 77/421 interchange, but was stopped at West Yadkin. The project has moved closer to the 77/421 interchange and now the project needs to be completed.

Commissioner Phillips stated the Board had agreed to move forward with the water and sewer plans with proper funding. The State Revolving Loan applies to public health issues not economic development. We do not have the funding lined up for sewer and stopping the waterlines at West Yadkin does not stop the project but that is as far as the funding would allow. Commissioner Phillips stated that Ron Niland is working on a grant to obtain funding.

Commissioner Swaim asked what would this do to the County's finances?

Mr. Williams stated the water projects have all received affirmative action and even the candidates at the forum were for the water projects. The audit for year ending June 30, 2006 has been sent to the LGC for their review and approval. The County's funding is overall in pretty good shape. He reviewed the different funds and how much is in them and what is already designated. Mr. Williams reminded the Board that the county is being ordered to build a new jail and there are still needs for the schools. He

stated the county could proceed with projects, but needed to be concerned with the financial impact this could have on the citizens of the county.

Commissioner Phillips asked Mr. Williams if he thought this was a good idea.

Mr. Williams spoke with several professional persons regarding the scheduling and the aggressiveness of the schedule.

Commissioner Swaim asked Randy Darden, Arcadis, about the timing.

Mr. Darden stated the bids for Jonesville and West Yadkin were favorable because of the extra work to obtain as many bids as possible and allowing more time for the contractors to ask questions. The schedule presented is very aggressive especially with holidays involved which could result in the bids coming back higher.

Chairman Wooten reviewed the available funding for this project; \$1 million from the Revolving Loan, \$2 million from the General Fund and \$500,000 from Capital Reserve.

Commissioner Phillips stated the Board agreed on the water/sewer projects using the best financials, the best engineers; the Manager has reviewed the finances and is not comfortable with the figures. Chairman Wooten made this same motion at the Jail Committee meeting embarrassing the county. Commissioner Phillips started to say this was about two Commissioners leaving the Board, but was interrupted by Chairman Wooten who called for a five minute break.

Commissioner Phillips asked how the project would be funded?

Chairman Wooten stated with cash, grants, loans and other sources. He stated there is enough cash to pay for the water, but not enough to cover the sewer. He commented the county is financially better now than it was back in October 2005.

Commissioner Phillips proceeded to discuss the jail and what finances would be used to build a new jail.

Chairman Wooten asked Attorney Graham if the discussion about the jail was out of order.

Attorney Graham stated no because it falls under finances.

Commissioner Casstevens called for the question.

Chairman Wooten reread the motion.

Attorney Graham asked how would the bid be awarded without knowing where the funding is coming from?

Chairman Wooten stated the waterline could be awarded but we may have to wait on the sewer lines. He commented that as of 6/30/06 the County had \$12 million.

The Board voted 3-2. Commissioners Swaim and Phillips opposed.

Adjournment

***Commissioner Sneed made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Casstevens seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Melinda Vestal, CMC
Clerk to the Board